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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/428,468	10/28/1999	SAID O. BELHAJ	BELHAJ5	4691

7590 12/31/2003

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EXAMINER

CHOW, DOON Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2675

DATE MAILED: 12/31/2003

17

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/428,468

Applicant(s)

BELHAJ, SAID O.

Examiner

Dennis-Doon Chow

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 October 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-6,8-10 and 14-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-6,8-10 and 14-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 8, 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Igari (JP404026226A).

Igari discloses a switch matrix and a method of scanning the switch matrix, comprising: a plurality of row conductors; a plurality of column conductors, each of row conductors and each of the column conductors are capable of being driven with a predetermined voltage level and are capable of being read therefrom a voltage level (see abstract); a plurality of switching elements connect to the row conductors and column conductors, wherein a total number of the switching elements exceeding a number obtained by multiplying together a number of row and column conductors (see Fig. 1); and means for detecting a closure of a first of the switching elements based on a presence of the predetermined column voltage level during monitoring of the row conductors, and means for detecting a closure of a second one of the switching elements based on a presence of the predetermined row voltage level during monitoring of the column conductors (see abstract). Igari further discloses placing two diodes (e.g. D1 and D8, Fig. 1) between each row conductor and each column conductor. Only one

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diode voltage drop of the two diodes is switchably connected between each row conductor and each column conductor (see Fig. 1 and Abstract).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4-6, 9-10, 14-15, 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Igari in view of applicant's admitted prior art.

Igari discloses a switch matrix and a method of scanning the switch matrix, comprising: a plurality of row conductors; a plurality of column conductors, each of row conductors and each of the column conductors are capable of being driven with a predetermined voltage level and are capable of being read therefrom a voltage level (see abstract); a plurality of switching elements connect to the row conductors and column conductors, wherein a total number of the switching elements exceeding a number obtained by multiplying together a number of row and column conductors (see Figs. 1, 2,); and means for detecting a closure of a first of the switching elements based on a presence of the predetermined column voltage level during monitoring of the row conductors, and means for detecting a closure of a second one of the switching elements based on a presence of the predetermined row voltage level during monitoring

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of the column conductors (see abstract). Igari further discloses placing two diodes (e.g. D1 and D8, Fig. 1) between each row conductor and each column conductor. Only one diode voltage drop of the two diodes is switchably connected between each row conductor and each column conductor (see Fig. 1 and Abstract).

Igari may not explicitly disclose the use a momentary (temporary) and persistent switching elements in the switch matrix. However, the admitted prior art disclose that the momentary and persistent switching elements are conventional switching elements (see page 1 of the specification). Thus, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art to use the conventional momentary (temporary) switching elements and persistent switching elements in Igari's switch matrix. This would have been obvious because Igari does not disclose using any specific switch element in the switch matrix.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 10/23/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Igari differs from the claims in that Igari does not teach or suggest switchably connecting only one diode voltage drop between each row conductor and each column conductor. The examiner disagrees. In Fig. 1, Igari teaches placing two diodes (e.g. D1 and D8) between each row conductor and each column conductor. One diode voltage drop of the two diodes is switchably connected between each row conductor and each column conductor (see Fig. 1 and the Abstract)

For the above reasons, the rejections stand.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dennis-Doon Chow whose telephone number is 703-305-4398. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-6:00, Alternate Monday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steve Saras can be reached on 703-305-9720. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-0377.

D. Chow
December 29, 2003


DENNIS-DOON CHOW
PRIMARY EXAMINER